



NEWS RELEASE

COUNCILMEMBER MARTI EMERALD

Seventh District

Date: February 12, 2010

For Immediate Release

Contact: Geni Cavitt
Phone: 619-236-6677
E-mail: gcavitt@sandiego.gov

COUNCILMEMBER EMERALD SUPPORTS EMERGENCY CURFEW ORDINANCE

City Curfew Ordinance Language Too Broad

The City of San Diego is proceeding to enact an emergency ordinance so curfew laws can continue to be enforced, protecting San Diego's children.

"I want to be able to enforce the curfew law to keep our kids safe. I also want to protect their Constitutional Rights," San Diego City Councilmember Marti Emerald said.

Earlier this week, the City's curfew ordinance was ruled unconstitutional by the California 4th District Court of Appeals because the language is not specific enough. The San Diego City Attorney is working with the Police Department to clarify the language in the curfew law and expects to present the proposed ordinance to the City Council within two weeks.

Councilmember Emerald is an active and vocal proponent of the City's curfew law, witnessing firsthand the dangers young people face when they are out after 10 P.M. "Violent crime does not discriminate. Children, some as young as 10, have been hurt and even killed when they are out late at night."

"Statistics show that criminal activity, including drug use, gang fights and drive-by shootings, are much more prevalent after 10 PM," said Councilmember Emerald.

"We will get an ordinance which not only protects the Constitutional Rights of every citizen, regardless of their age, but also sets some reasonable restrictions for the safety of our children," Emerald added. "Many young people exercise good judgment when it comes to their behavior. But for those who are easily influenced or unsupervised, time out after dark can be devastating."

Last fall, Councilmember Emerald was invited to ride along with SDPD during a curfew sweep conducted in the Mid-city area. "It was an eye opening experience," said Emerald. "No one, especially children, should witness a gang beating a man with metal pipes. There was also at least one shooting that night."

Once approved by the City Council, this ordinance will go into effect immediately.

###